

1 **CLAIMS**

2 1. An apparatus comprising:
3 a media serving engine to distribute media content;
4 a cache engine coupled to the media serving engine, the cache engine to
5 cache media content; and
6 a set of cache policies accessible by the cache engine to define operation of
7 the cache engine.

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9 2. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the apparatus can be
10 configured to operate as a cache server and an origin server.

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12 3. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the cache engine is
13 configured to distribute cached media content to a plurality of clients.

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15 4. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 further including a data
16 communication interface coupled to the cache engine and the media serving
17 engine.

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19 5. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 further including a data
20 communication interface coupled to allow the cache engine to retrieve media
21 content from an origin server across a network.

6. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 further including a data communication interface coupled to allow the media serving engine to distribute media content across a network.

7. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the apparatus is a Windows Media Server.

8. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the cache policies include policies for distributing media content from the apparatus.

9. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the cache policies include policies for handling cache misses.

10. An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the cache policies include policies for prefetching media content.

11. A method comprising:

- receiving a request for media content from a client, wherein the request is received by a cache server containing a plurality of cache policies;
- determining whether the requested media content is stored by the cache server;
- providing the requested media content to the client if the requested media content is stored by the cache server; and
- redirecting the client to an origin server containing the requested media content if the requested media content is not stored by the cache server.

1 17. A method as recited in claim 15 wherein the set of cache policies
2 includes policies for storing media content on the cache server.

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4 18. A method as recited in claim 15 further including redirecting the
5 client to an origin server if the cache server is functioning as an origin server and
6 the cache server does not contain the requested media content.

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8 19. A method as recited in claim 15 further including downloading the
9 requested media content from an origin server if the cache server is functioning as
10 an origin server and the cache server does not contain the requested media content.

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12 20. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
13 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
14 15.

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16 21. One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a
17 computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one
18 or more processors to:

19 receive a request for media content from a client, wherein the request for
20 media content is received by a cache server;

21 determine whether the cache server is operating as a cache server or an
22 origin server;

23 process the request for media content based on a set of cache policies if the
24 cache server is operating as a cache server; and

25

1 provide the requested media content to the client if the cache server is
2 operating as an origin server and the cache server contains the requested media
3 content.

4
5 **22.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 21
6 wherein the set of cache policies includes policies for media content distribution.

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8 **23.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 21
9 wherein the set of cache policies includes policies for storing media content on the
10 cache server.

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12 **24.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 21 further
13 causing the one or more processors to redirect the client to an origin server if the
14 cache server is operating as an origin server and the cache server does not contain
15 the requested media content.

16
17 **25.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 21 further
18 causing the one or more processors to download the requested media content from
19 an origin server if the cache server is operating as an origin server and the cache
20 server does not contain the requested media content.